IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 25, 26, and 32 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claims 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 33, and 35 as follows (a marked-up version showing changes made is attached hereto):

19. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising: (a) a nucleic sequence encoding a polypeptide having plant lecithin:cholesterol acyltransferase activity, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence of at least 80% sequence identity, based on the Clustal method of alignment, when compared to-SEQ ID NO:14; or (b) a complement of the nucleic acid sequence wherein the complement and the nucleic acid sequence consist of the same number of nucleotides and are 100% complementary.

20. (amended) The polynucleotide of Claim 19 wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14 have at least 85% identity based on the Clustal alignment method.

21. (amended) The polynucleotide of Claim 19 wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14 have at least 90% identity based on the Clustal alignment method.

22. (amended) The polynucleotide of Claim 19 wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14 have at least 95% identity based on the Clustal alignment method.

23. (amended) The polynucleotide of Claim 19 wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14.

24. (amended)The polynucleotide of Claim 19, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

27. (amended) A cell or a virus comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 34.

33. (amended) A chimeric gene comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 19 operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence.

35. (amended) A method for altering the level of plant lecithin:cholesterol acyltransferases polypeptide expression in a host cell, the method comprising:

a) Transforming a host cell with the chimeric gene of claim 34; and

b) Growing the transformed cell in step (a) under conditions suitable for the expression of the chimeric gene.

Please add th following claims 36-38:

36. (new) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 19.

37. (new) A method for transforming a cell comprising transforming a cell with the polynucleotide of claim 19.

38. (new) A method for isolating a polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of Claim 19 comprising isolating the polypeptide from a cell containing a chimeric gene comprising the polynucleotide operably linked to a regulatory sequence.